

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PHNOM 05380 01 OF 02 160826Z

11

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 078889

R 160551Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5775

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 5380

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN UNGA EGEN CB

SUBJECT: GKR PROGRAM OF CONTACTS BEFORE 29TH UNGA: MIDDLE EAST

REF: A. PHNOM PENH 5182.

B. STATE 58426.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. WITH THE AIM OF IMPROVING ITS WEAK DIPLOMATIC POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST BEFORE THE 29TH UNGA, GKR WILL ENDEAVOR TO SEND A CAREFULLY SELECTED UNOFFICIAL RELIGIOUS-ORIENTED (MUSLIM) DELEGATION OF CHAM CIVILAINS ON A TOUR OF THAT AREA IN MAY. TWO FANK GENERALS, ONE A CHAM, WILL PROCEED TO KUALA LUMPUR AND

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PHNOM 05380 01 OF 02 160826Z

DJAKARTA WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS TO TRY TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS

IN ARAB STATES THROUGH MALAYSIAN AND INDONESIAN
INTERMEDIARITES. END SUMMARY.

2. GKR EFFORT TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIVELY WEAK POSI-
TION AMOUNG MIDDLE EASTERN STATES PRIOR TO 29TH
UNGA WAS ONE OF MATTERS DISCUSSED DURING DCM'S
CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINSTER KEUKY LIM DURING
PAST FEW DAYS. ASKED FOR OUR VIEWS ON THIS PARTICULAR SUBJECT,
DCM MADE PRESENTATION BASED MAILNLY ON REF B PARA-
GRAPHS FIVE AND SIX. FOREIGN MINSTER INDICATED GKR'S
THINKING RAN ALONG MUCH THE SAME LINES. THEY TOO BE-
LIEVED THAT THE BEST POSSIBILITY OF GETTING A HEARING
IN ARAB STATES WOULD BE THROUGH A NON-OFFICIAL RELIGI-
OUS-ORIENTED DELEGATION. IN FACT THEY HAD ALREADY
BEGUN TO CONSULT WITH THE MALAYSIANS, AS SUGGESTED
REF B, AND THE INDONESIANS. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID
HE HAD DISCUSSED A POSSIBLE MIDDLE EASTERN TRAVEL
PROJECT WITH THE LATTER DURING THIS RECENT VISIT TO
JAKARTA AND DURING INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR DHARSONO'S
BRIEF SOJOURN IN PHNOM PENH LAST WEEK
(DHARSONO IS BASED IN SAIGON AND SELDOM GETS TO
PHNOM PENH). KEUKY LIM BELIEVED THAT BOTH GOM AND
GOI WOULD BE USEFUL INTERMEDIARIES.

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY IS NOW ASSISTING PRESIDENT LON
NOL'S OFFICE TO DEVELOP A PLAN OF ACTION. IT HAS AL-
READY BEEN MORE OR LESS SETTLED THAT MG SAK SUTSAKHAN,
WHO HAS DONE MUCH TRAVELLING IN RECENT MONTHS AS A
KIND OF AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE IN ASIA, AND BG LES KOSSEM(A CHAM)
WILL GO TO MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA, PROBABLY LATER THIS
WEEK, TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR A CIVILIAN DELEGA-
TION OF CHAMS (WHO ARE OF THE MUSLIM FAITH) TO PROCEED
TO VARIOUS MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES DURING THE MONTH
OF MAY. THIS DELEGATION WOULD STOP OFF IN KUALA
LUMPUR AND JAKARTA FOR CONSULATION EN ROUTE TO THEIR
DESTINATIONS.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED THE GKR HAD NOT HAD MUCH
LUCH WITH EARLIER DELEGATIONS SENT TO MIDDLE EAST
AND SOME OTHER REGIONS. THEY HOPE TO PUT TOGETHER A
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PAGE 03 PHNOM 05380 01 OF 02 160826Z

GOOD ONE NOW FOR THE ARAB CAPITALS. HE AGREED IT WOULD
BE A MISTAKE TO INCLUDE IN THE DELEGATION ANY MILITARY
OFFICERS, OR ANYONE WHO COULD BE VULNERABLE TO VALID
GRUNK CRITICISM (FOR EXAMPLE, NO ONE WITH A LOCAL
REPUTATION FOR CURRUPTION SHOULD PARTICIPATE). DCM
EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF HAVING AT LEAST ONE PARTI-
CIPANT WHO IS ARTICULATE SPOKESMAN AND SKILLED IN
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND MENTIONED NAME OF GKR EMBASSY PRESS

ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON PENG METH GAFFAR, WHO COULD ALSO TAKE CARE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECTS. KEUKY LIM SAID GKR WOULD ENDEAVOR TO FIND CHAMS KNOWLEDGEABLE RE MUSLIM WORLD AND PREPARED TO ATTEND MOSQUE, AS WELL AS TO MAKE EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION OF GKR'S CASE. REGRETTABLY, VERY FEW CHAMS POSSESSED THE QUALITIES AND REPRESENTATIONAL ABILITIES DESIRED.

5. ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CHAM DELEGATION IN EACH COUNTRY VISITED WOULD BE TO ASCERTAIN WHEHHER A GKR "POLITICAL DELEGATION" WOULD BE RECEIVED AT A LATER DATE BUT BEFORE SEPTEMBER. S THE APPROPRIATE TIME GKR EMBASSIES IN MALAYSIA, INDONESIA AND WESTERN EUROPE WOULD ALSO ENDEAVOR TO MAKE CONTACTS WITH LOCAL MISSIONS OF ARAB STATES, WITH THE SAME END IN VIEW. KEUKY LIM SPECULATED THAT HE MIGHT EVEN STOP IN ONE OR TWO ARAB CAPITALS HIMSELF EN ROUTE TO AFRICA IN JULY, IF HE COULD ARRANGE IT.

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 05380 02 OF 02 160817Z

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ACTION SS-30

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R 160551Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5776
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AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUALA KUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 5380

EXDIS

6. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID GKR WAS ESPECIALLY DESIROUS OF WORKING OUT SOME KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WITH SAUDI ARABIA, ALGIERS AND EGYPT, BECAUSE THEY HAD SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE OVER OTHER MUSLIM ORIENTED STATES. GKR WAS ENCOURAGED BY (A) KING FEISAL'S CORDIAL REPLY LAST MONTH TO LON NOL'S LETTER THANKING HIM FOR SAUDI ARABIA'S ABSTENTION DURING THE KHMER CREDENTIALS SHOWDOWN AT THE LAST UNGA, AND (B) BY THE NEWS THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAD RECENTLY ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

7. KEUKY LIM SAID HE HAD BEEN VERY IMPRESSED BY MALIK'S ADVICE TO HIM IN JAKARTA A FEW WEEKS AGO
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PAGE 02 PHNOM 05380 02 OF 02 160817Z

RE MEANS TO IMPROVE GKR'S IMAGE IN ARAB WORLD. MALIK HAD SUGGESTED THAT GKR'S POOR POSITION THERE WAS DUE TO FACT IT MAINTAINED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. IF GKR BROKE IT WITH ISRAEL, OR IN OTHER WAYS DEMONSTRATED A MORE PRO-ARAB STANCE, IT MIGHT GAIN THE ARAB VOTES OR AT LEAST ACHIEVE ABSTENTIONS. DCM NOTED THAT ISRAEL HAD ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE KHMER REPUBLIC AND THAT THERE WERE VARIOUS REASONS FOR GKR'S IMPROVED POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, E.G., HEAVY PRC PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES, LACK OF KNOWLEDGE RE KHMER DEVELOPMENTS AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS, ETC. DCM EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT, IN ANY CASE, THE PROJECT ALREADY BEING DEVELOPED, TO SEND TO THE MIDDLE EAST A CAREFULLY SELECTED UNOFFICIAL RELIGIOUS-ORIENTED CIVILIAN DELEGATION, WITH THE MISSION OF EXPLAINING THE REALITIES OF THE KHMER SITUATION AND PARTICULARLY THE HARSH FATE OF MUSLIMS UNDER COMMUNIST RULE WAS A GOOD INITIAL INITIATIVE TO TAKE.

8. COMMENT: THIS WILL BE THE MOST DIFFICULT OF ALL THE REGIONAL DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS GKR WILL ENDEAVOR TO MOUNT BETWEEN NOW AND SEPTEMBER. WE WILL FOLLOW THIS PROJECT CLOSELY, REPORT PROMPTLY ON ITS PROGRESS, AND PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS AS NECESSARY.

9. WE WOULD WELCOME COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT, USUN AND OTHER ADDRESSEE INFO POSTS. GKR HAS LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF CURRENT SCENE IN MIDDLE EAST AND WOULD BENEFIT FROM ANY COUNSEL WE CAN GIVE THEM RE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY SITUATIONS, OPPORTUNITIES,

TACTICS, ETC.
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